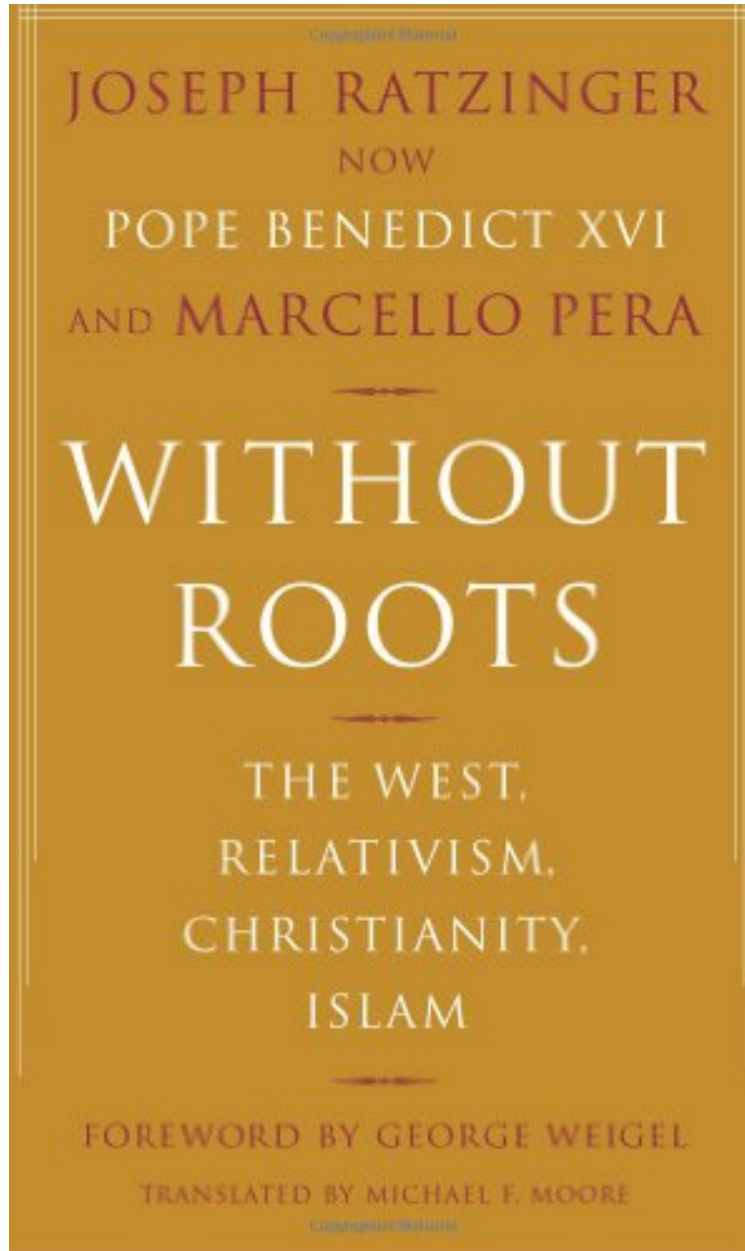


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Without Roots: The West, Relativism, Christianity, Islam

Joseph Ratzinger, Marcello Pera
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Joseph Ratzinger, Marcello Pera : Without Roots: The West, Relativism, Christianity, Islam before purchasing it in order to gage whether or not it would be worth my time, and all praised Without Roots: The West, Relativism, Christianity, Islam:

8 of 8 people found the following review helpful. Without Roots: Fantastic analysis of the Grey Doom of Relativism that afflicts our society
By Mrs. F
We discussed this book in our Church discussion group, and it generated a ton of excitement as it nailed the major problems in politics, religion and government today, not to mention daily life. Basically, at least one major party in the U.S., operating out of a religion of relativism, is ready to lay down and let Islamic Fascists take over our country. Mr Pera says there is a similar group of people in Europe who think all war is evil, and is unwilling to defend itself. War is not intrinsically evil anymore than death is. He said there is a moral death (natural) and an immoral death (murder). The same principle applies to war, which can be moral if it is defensive. We enjoyed the book, and plan to read *The Sadness of Christ* by St. Thomas More *The Sadness of Christ* (Yale University Press Translation) next as a form of anti-relativism, as St. Thomas More, former Chancellor of England, put his head on a chopping block rather than sign a piece of paper saying King Henry VIII was the head of the Roman Catholic Church of England. Christ in "The Sadness of Christ" evidenced similar courage. IT is More's commentary on the Agony in the Garden Passages from Scripture. More wrote it during the 15 months he was in the Tower of London awaiting execution. Anyway, *Without Roots* addresses the liberal malaise in Europe today, but guess what the same problem afflicts the U.S. today, although to a lesser degree. God bless you. Susan Fox
1 of 1 people found the following review helpful. Worth your time
By Teresa CA
A clear and enlightening exchange between Pope Benedict and a prominent Italian political leader. Well worth reading.
2 of 2 people found the following review helpful. Calm reading highly recommended. It is a great book
By GHIGOP
Hard topics explained with clarity and deep philosophical insights. It is not for everybody and needs meditated. Calm reading highly recommended. It is a great book.

On May 12, 2004, Pope Benedict XVI - then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger-addressed the Italian Senate on the state of the West; the very same day, Joseph Pera, President of the Italian Senate, spoke before the Lateran College of the Papal University. Together they called upon the West to confront the spiritual, cultural, and political malaise that have afflicted it in the earliest years of the 21st century. In the months that ensued, before Cardinal Ratzinger's election to the papacy, they developed their ideas into the eloquent dialogue that is *Without Roots* - a book that quickly became an Italian bestseller and is even more timely today than ever. With Europe shaken by the war in Iraq, terrorism, security, Israel, relations with the U.S., immigration, and the rejection of the EU constitution in both France and the Netherlands, the issue of European identity has profound implications for the rest of the world. Bringing together their unique vantage points as leaders of Church and State, Pope Benedict XVI and Pera challenge us to imagine what can be the future of a civilization that has abandoned its history for a relativist secularism. They call on the West to embrace a spiritual rather than political renewal-and to accept the moral beliefs that alone can help us to make sense of changes in technology, economics, and society. Pope Benedict XVI joins the President of the Italian Senate to offer a provocative critique of the spiritual, cultural, and political crisis afflicting the West.

From Booklist
Complementary lectures delivered in May 2004 and the lecturers' letters of response to one another make up a small, potent book on the topic that Bruce Bawer's startling *While Europe Slept* (2006) gives electrifying currency: the decline and all-too-possible fall of European culture to the radical Islam that Mary Habeck in *Knowing the Enemy* (2006) calls "jihadism." Pera, a philosopher of science who has become president of the Italian senate, dissects political correctness and the condition of which it is a symptom, cultural relativism. Ratzinger, who a year later became Pope Benedict XVI, summarizes Europe's Christian heritage with breathtaking concision and historical mastery. Both men see Europe today in a crisis of identity that has made it largely unable and unwilling to defend its culture against intransigent Islam, and both call for revivifying Christian identity. In his letter, Pera advocates nondenominational Christianity as the basis of a revitalized Europe; in his, Ratzinger propounds the conditions for a pan-European Christian civil religion such as Pera outlines. An engrossing, enlightening, extremely timely discussion.
Ray Olson
Copyright American Library Association. All rights reserved "(A) thoughtful history lesson about what European/American civilization consists of, with some striking comments on the Spengler-Toynbee debate." *The Spectator*
About the Author
Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger was the Prefect of the Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith under the late Pope John Paul II, and has long been regarded as one of the most profound Catholic theological and spiritual writers of our times. His numerous books include *God and the World*, *Introduction to Christianity*, *Salt of the Earth*, and *The Spirit of Liturgy*. Marcello Pera, a professor of the philosophy of science at the University of Pisa, is also President of the Italian Senate. He lives in Italy.